8th October 1928]

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are inter-communal factions there ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The hon. Member is correct in his presumption and that is one of the reasons why the Government have nominated the president." 11-30 a.m.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any municipality in the Presidency where there is no factious spirit ? "

The hon. the President :—" We are now on the taluk boards."

Mr. J. A Saldanha :—" I mean taluk boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know when the taluk board asked for election of its president, whether the Collector's report was examined in the light of that request ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The Collector's report was sent in connexion with the resolution of the taluk board."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know whether there is any taluk board in the Madras Presidency where there is no inter-communal factious spirit ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I want notice of that."

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" May I know the reasons why the taluk boards of Hospet and Harpanahalli have been deprived of the privilege of electing their presidents ? "

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member has to give notice of that question. It is not connected with this."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I know, if there is so much factious spirit, why the Government should not order the dissolution of the board and throw it open for fresh election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" If the Government thought that course would have been better, they would have taken that course. But they thought that that is not the thing to do at present."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister on what facts the Collector came to the conclusion that there was factious spirit in that particular taluk ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The Collector's communication is confidential."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" I want to know from the hon. the Chief Minister whether it is the policy of the Government, wherever inter-communal spirit prevails, to disenfranchise the concerned local boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The hon. Member is not correct in his presumption."

Municipal Councils

Electric installation in Tanjore municipality.

*384 Q.—Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Tanjore municipality has had any experience of carrying out electric schemes ;

(b) whether its finances are sufficiently satisfactory to undertake electric lighting ;

(c) whether the Government have considered the question of undertaking the electric installation themselves and then handing over the same to the municipality ; and

(d) if not, whether they will be pleased to do so ?

A.—(a) No.
(b) Yes.
(c) No.
(d) No.

Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" With reference to clause (b), may I know what is the basis of the Government for the assurance that the finances are sufficiently satisfactory ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government have formed the opinion after seeing the financial condition of the municipality."

Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that the collections of the municipality have fallen into considerable arrears ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" They are making all attempts to make speedy collections."

Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" Will Government publish a statement of the financial position of this municipality which I, as a Councillor till very recently, know to be unsound ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think that course is necessary."

Defalcations in Bezwada municipality.

* 385 Q.—The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are defalcations to the extent of about Rs. 12,000 in the Bezwada Municipality, Rs. 5,000 by issuing false and forged municipal receipts and the balance by not crediting the receipts in the municipal accounts ;

(b) whether it is a fact that they commenced in 1926 and continued up to March 1928 and who is responsible for this state of things ;

(c) what is the income of the Bezwada Municipality and what is the arrear balance for 1927–28 and what is the cause for so much balance ;

(d) whether the accounts of the Bezwada Municipality have been audited during the last three years ; if so, at what periods ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chairman has submitted a report to the Government about these defalcations in March last and what action the Government have taken thereon ; and

(f) whether the Government will be pleased to institute a thorough and complete enquiry into the affairs of the Bezwada Municipality ?

A.—(a) The total defalcations are reported to amount to Rs. 7,821–13–6 and, after adjusting pay, provident fund subscriptions, bonus and securities and the amounts paid by the bill collectors, the net amount to be recovered from the bill collectors and others concerned is Rs. 4,975–1–8. In addition, Rs. 3,257–7–9 was